

# MCAS Progress at English High School

## GUEST COMMENTARY

**ANDY FILA, Principal, Lynn English High School**

As principal of LEHS (Lynn English High School) it is my great pleasure to congratulate the staff and the students for their remarkable work regarding MCAS. Once again, we have made AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress), and we take great pride in this fact considering all the challenges that the staff and the students must overcome. Ninety-seven percent of the sophomore class of 2010 passed the ELA portion of the MCAS test, and 15% of these students scored in the advanced category. Ninety-five percent of the class of 2010 passed math and 35 percent of these students scored in the advanced category. Not only have we been recognized as a Compass School, our data reveal the significant progress that we have achieved over the past five years.

For the last five years, the number of students passing the ELA test has increased on a yearly basis:

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
79%	88%	89%	95%	97%

For the last five years, the number of students passing the Math test has also increased on a yearly basis:

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
80%	83%	84%	94%	95%

The key to our success is not a secret. We believe in teamwork, a commitment toward education, and a goal that will be achieved if everyone contributes. We believe that one component to our success is the city-wide systematic [Collins Writing Program](#) that has been proven to enrich student writing, and to teach students the basic procedures for clear, concise focused writing. We have also instituted MCAS classes that identify students who may require additional support in addition to the work that is done in the ELA classes.

In order to participate in athletics in our school, education is taken very seriously. Coaches hold study sessions before practices to ensure success in the classroom, and if an athlete has not passed MCAS, that athlete is required to participate in remediation after school or he/she is required to enroll in the Saturday morning program run at North Shore Community College. Furthermore, this is the official policy for any student who wishes to participate in after school events. Thus far, the plan has been successful, and we will continue with this policy.

One of the programs that I am very proud of is the "Retired Teachers MCAS Program" which was implemented several years ago, and has tremendous success. These retired teachers have certainly made a difference in the lives of many of our students. The constant dedication of our entire staff toward our MCAS goal and success rate is tremendous, and our staff is excellent in producing results.

I am very proud of our staff, the students and our results. In short, they are simply the best!